

Remarks:

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Office action dated May 20, 2004. As originally filed, the present application included claims 1-22. Prior to the present amendment, all of the original claims remained pending.

Pursuant to the present Office action, claims 14-22 have been allowed, and claims 2-10 and 13 have been indicated allowable if re-written in independent form to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) based on Barghouti et al.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Barghouti et al. Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution, claims 1, 11 and 12 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, as suggested, and thus are understood to be allowable. Claims 4, 7, 9 and 10 depend from claims 3, 6 and 8, and thus also are understood to be allowable.

Regarding the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of the claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicant believes that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

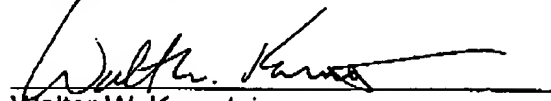
Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any

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way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner A. Boakye, Group Art Unit 2667, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on August 20, 2004.



Christie A. Doolittle

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